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AUTHOR	Stamler, Virginia Lee; Stone, Gerald L.
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ABSTRACT

This book addresses the difficult topic of faculty-student sexual involvement, examining it through both faculty and student perspectives and raising the need to address the problem of relationships in which male faculty needs supersede female students' educational goals. Chapter 1 examines various perspectives of faculty-student sexual relationships, considers whether a relationship between a faculty member and a student can be consensual, and looks at some of the legal and ethical issues involved. Chapter 2 considers the consensual relationship controversy from a faculty-based perspective, which sees sexual harassment policy as colliding with such values as academic freedom and faculty governance. Chapter 3 explores the vulnerability of students, including developmental factors which affect and are affected by faculty-student relationships. Chapter 4 considers faculty-student relationships in terms of the interaction and the dynamics of faculty power and student vulnerability within an educational context. Chapter 5 summarizes the key issues that need to be addressed when developing intervention programs. The book proposes interventions based on three fundamental tenets: (1) the university's responsibility to provide an appropriate educational environment; (2) intervention based on an understanding of faculty-student dynamics; and (3) the goal of intervention as the prevention of harm rather than as punishment. (Contains approximately 100 references.) (DB)

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